

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: DEFENCE MINISTER LEBER COMMENTS ON LOCKHEED ALLEGATIONS
AND IMPACT OF CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS ON US LEADERSHIP OF
WEST

IN AN INTERVIEW TO MEMBERS OF MUNICH PRESS CLUB FEBRUARY 13,
MINDEF LEBER MADE NOTEWORTHY COMMENTS ON THE FOLLOWING TWO ISSUES:

A) LOCKHEED BRIBERY ALLEGATIONS: LEBER CONSIDERS IT
HIS RESPONSIBILITY AS MINDEF TO DETERMINE VALIDITY OF
CHARGES OF IMPROPER OR ILLEGAL ACTIVITY WHICH MAY BE LEVELED
AGAINST OFFICIALS IN HIS MINISTRY. FOR THIS REASON AN APPRO-
PRIATE OFFICIAL OF THE ANTI CORRUPTION SECTION OF MOD HAD
BEEN SENT TO WASHINGTON TO LOOK INTO THE LOCKHEED ILLEGAL
PAYMENTS ALLEGATIONS MADE TO DATE. IT IS CLEAR THAT MOD
OFFICIALS WERE GUILTY OF NO RPT NO WRONGDOING IN 1972
SAID LEBER. WHEN THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON MULTINATIONAL
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CORPORATIONS RESUMES HEARINGS ON FEBRUARY 18 (SIC), THE

APPROPRIATE MOD OFFICIALS WILL AGAIN BE IN THE U.S. LEBER DECLARED THAT "EVERYTHING ELSE" WHICH CONCERNS ALLEGATIONS ABOUT ILLEGAL LOCKHEED DONATIONS AND PAYMENTS IS NOT RPT NOT HIS BUSINESS BUT THE BUSINESS OF THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR.

B) IMPACT OF CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ROLE OF US:

LEBER SAID HE HAD "GREAT SYMPATHY: THAT A DEMOCRACY WAS ABLE TO MUSTER THE STRENGTH TO COMBAT ABUSES. HE QUICKLY ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THINKING PEOPLE CANNOT OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT IN DEALING WITH VARIOUS MATTERS FROM WATERGATE TO LOCKHEED, THE U.S. CONGRESS IS SERIOUSLY DAMAGING THE U.S. ROLE AS THE LEADING POWER OF THE WESTERN WORLD. IF A STATE BECOMES PART OF THE EAST BLOC, IT CAN DEPEND ON BEING CONTROLLED AND DEFENDED BY THE USSR; AT PRESENT HOWEVER, A STATE WHICH BELONGS TO THE WEST CAN COUNT ON RECEIVING ONLY RPT ONLY RESOLUTIONS. LEBER DECLARED THAT THE CONGRESS MUST COME TO GRIPS WITH THE FACT THAT THE U.S. HAS THE FUNCTION OF LEADERSHIP OF THE WEST.
PETERSON

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